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# Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests



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Visit our websites at [www.fs.fed.us/r6/wenatchee](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/wenatchee)  
[www.fs.fed.us/r6/okanogan](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/okanogan)

## NEWS RELEASE

**Date:** June 25, 2004  
**Subject:** Lightning ignites many fires on the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests  
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Fire crews from the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests have responded to 14 lightning caused fires since Monday, seven on the Okanogan National Forest and seven on the Wenatchee National Forest.

On the Lake Wenatchee/Leavenworth Ranger District two spot fires (less than ¼ acre in size) were reported in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, burning in steep terrain and heavy timber and brush on **Blackjack Ridge**. A crew of four rappellers is assigned to these two fires.

There is a report of a spot fire burning in **Sears Creek**, five miles northwest of Lake Wenatchee. A five person crew is hiking in to investigate. There were reports of at least two other smoke sightings in the **Panther Creek** area of the Lake Wenatchee/Leavenworth Ranger District that crews were unable to locate; those areas will be monitored today.

An unconfirmed fire has been reported 3 miles west of Brief on the Entiat Ranger District in the **Grandma Creek** area. This area is very very steep and access will be difficult.

The 3-acre **Junction Fire** is burning on the border of the Chelan Ranger District and North Cascades National Park, approximately 1 mile west of Dolly Varden Campground. Eight smokejumpers responded to this fire late Thursday afternoon. A 20-person crew from the Entiat and Chelan Ranger Districts will be working that fire today; a helicopter will also be assisting firefighters with water drops. The Forest Service is working in conjunction with the North Cascades National Park in firefighting efforts on the Junction Fire.

The **Nine Mile Fire**, which was ignited by lightning late Wednesday evening, is burning 3 miles east of Holden Village, and is 75% lined. Crews will continue building fireline around the fire today.

On the Okanogan Forest, firefighters responded to five new lightning fires, catching three of them while they were still very small.

A fire near **Russell Springs** and Cornell Butte, estimated at ¼ acre in size, was suppressed by a the Tonasket initial attack crew and contained at 4:30 p.m. Thursday.

The **Bailey's Coffee Fire**, a spot fire located near Bailey Mountain (5 miles east of Crawfish Lake and 16 miles southeast of Tonasket), was staffed by two rappellers who worked on the fire overnight. The fire was contained at 8:30 a.m. this morning.

The **Starvation Fire**, another spot fire located 8 miles west of Conconully, was suppressed by four smokejumpers overnight. The jumpers will be hiking out today. There were reports of several other unconfirmed fires on the Tonasket District that crews will be looking for and monitoring as the day progresses.

Yesterday, four fires were reported burning in the northwestern portion of the Pasayten Wilderness on the Methow Valley Ranger District in the Freezeout drainage. The fires are located about one mile south of the Canadian border and 3 miles west of Hozameen Mountain. Overnight, the four fires grew together into two fires, and are now estimated to be between 100-400 acres in size. Fire managers flew reconnaissance flights over the area this morning to determine the best strategy for handling the suppression efforts for the **Freezeout Fire**.

District fire crews, aerial observation flight crews, local and regional helicopter rappel crews, and North Cascades Smokejumpers have worked together to locate and suppress most of these lightning-caused fires quickly while they were still small in size.

A fireline has been constructed completely around the 34-acre **Bottle 2 Fire** located 14 miles southwest of the town of Loomis. Today, fire crews will continue looking for spot fires, mopping up, and rehabilitating hand lines and other disturbances caused by fire suppression activities. A local Type 3 incident management team has taken over firefighting management for this fire.

Two 20-person Hot Shot crews are working on the perimeter of the fire today as helicopters continue to drop water on the 30-acre **Sunshine Creek Fire**. Crews expect to remain at this fire for the next few days.

The weather forecast calls for continued high temperatures, with the potential for lighting, winds, and possible showers later today and throughout the weekend.

Aerial observation flights will occur today to monitor for any new or holdover fires from lighting activity this week.

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